



# Statistics News

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS IS A DIVISION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA FRANKLIN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES SPRING 2009

## DEPARTMENT NOTES

John Stufken  
Professor and Head

Dear alumnae, alumni and friends,

I hope that you will enjoy the tidbits of information that this Spring Newsletter has to offer. Contact us with suggestions for future Newsletters, and send us also interesting news items from your professional or personal life. We do not twitter (not yet at least), but we do like to feature news that you care to share on our webpage or in the Newsletter.

To prove that we are with the times, there is now an additional option for sharing information and renewing contact with lost friends: Facebook! For those on Facebook, we invite you to join the department's new Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=39197917632>. This page will only be interesting if many of you join and participate.

Subject to availability of funds (and these words carry considerable weight these days), we have also requested a slot for a reception at the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington DC. I hope to meet many of you there. The date, time and location are not yet available, and you should look for additional information on our webpage or on the Facebook page.

The department consists currently of 22 very talented and dedicated faculty members. This includes newcomers Kim Gilbert and Jien Chen, who both joined us in the Summer of 2008, Kim as Lecturer and Jien as Associate Director for the Statistical Consulting Center.

Jien's hiring, partially funded by a consortium that involves the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and a few other colleges, has enabled us to reopen the Statistical Consulting Center (SCC). Director Jaxk Reeves, Jien, and the student consultants have been very busy this year, mostly with on-campus projects, but also with a few off-campus projects and with spreading the word that the SCC is open again for business.

As already reported in my Fall letter to alumni, UGA President Michael Adams visited the department in September of 2008 for the first time in his 10+ years as president. I believe that our building made an impres-

sion on him (and those of you who know the building will know what I mean), but space is at a premium on campus and there does not seem to be a viable alternative for us in the short term. We will keep working at this though; one day Statistics will be housed in a building that we can all be proud of, and that befits the exceptional dedication of our faculty, staff and students.

Several of our faculty and students received noteworthy awards during the past year. I will just mention one of each here and refer you to our webpage for additional award information. Among the faculty, Lynne Billard was the recipient of the 2008 Elizabeth L. Scott Award from the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies. This prestigious award, which was presented at the 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings, recognizes exemplary efforts to further the careers of women in academia.

Among the students, Ph.D. student Ming-Hung (Jason) Kao received the James L. Carmon Scholarship. This scholarship, in memory of Dr. James L. Carmon, a UGA faculty member for 36 years, is awarded to a graduate student whose research reflects state-of-the-art utilization of computer and/or networking technology in the sciences or creative arts. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that this fellowship has been awarded to a graduate student in Statistics. Jason, who is completing his dissertation under the supervision of Abhyuday Mandal and me, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Arizona State University, starting in August of 2009.

I also want to take this opportunity to profoundly thank all of you who made donations to the department during the past years. You are recognized by name elsewhere in this Newsletter. With significant state budget cuts, your generosity is very important for the department and we are extremely grateful. I pledge to you that

these funds will be used judiciously in support of our academic programs.

Finally, as editor of The American Statisti-

Award Winner Ming-Hung (Jason) Kao with supervising professors Abhyuday Mandal and John Stufken.



cian I recently had the opportunity to handle a paper entitled "What is Statistics?" I hope that you will all read this paper (it is scheduled to appear in the May 2009 issue), but rather than write here about the paper itself, I would like to challenge you to think about its intriguing title. What is statistics to you? What impact does or did it have on your life and how do you see it fit in the broader scientific enterprise? Do we, as a discipline, provide our students with the training that they need? How are we doing in terms of educating non-majors? I would be mighty interested to hear your thoughts on these and related issues based on your own experiences, either as educators or as statisticians in industry or government. The thoughts of those who have been in the workforce for some time could also be of great value to our current students. And that alone makes it a great Facebook discussion topic!

Enjoy this Newsletter, and we hope that you will be in touch, one way or another. Go Dawgs!

John Stufken, Head

# PROGRAM UPDATES

The undergraduate program in statistics continues to thrive. You may view the current curriculum for our BS in Statistics program by visiting our website <http://www.stat.uga.edu/degrees/bachelors.html>.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Christine Franklin  
Undergraduate Advisor

We are very proud of the success of our capstone course for undergraduates, currently being offered for the second year by Dr. Nicole Lazar and Dr. Jaxk Reeves. The course meets two hours both in the fall and spring semesters. This course affords our undergraduates an experience that is similar to practicing as a statistician in the real world. In April, the students will present posters displaying their major group project results.

From Fall 2002 to Fall 2008, we have graduated 55 students.

This spring we are on track to graduate approximately 20 students – our largest group of undergraduates ever to graduate. We are proud of all our undergraduates; the students are bright and dedicated, with many of them electing to attend graduate school. Some of the graduate programs where our students are attending are Texas A&M; Harvard (both the biostatistics and statistics departments); University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; Georgia Tech; University of Georgia; University of Florida; and Johns Hopkins University. Many of our students are working successfully as actuaries or as statistical consultants within different business organizations.

## UNDERGRADUATE CAPSTONE COURSE A CONTINUING SUCCESS



This academic year marks the second run of the new Capstone Course, taught again by Dr. Reeves and Dr. Lazar. Thirteen students have been working this year in small groups on projects from Genetics, Psychology (two different projects), Biomedical Engineering, and Linguistics. In addition, the class as a whole has been working on a project for Nuci's Space, to develop and analyze a survey on the health insurance needs and wants of local musicians. The course was supported by UGA's Writing Intensive Program, which gave us a dedicated TA (Ana Moura Bargo) for the entire year, and allowed us to focus more on helping the students improve their writing skills.

The students will present the results of their projects in a poster session to be held in the Statistics Department at the end of the semester. The results of the musician survey will be presented separately to the Advisory Board of Nuci's Space.

## STATISTICS UNDERGRADS PRESENT AT CURO

The Department is very proud of Shelina Ramnarine and Aileen Thomas, two undergraduate Statistics majors who participated in UGA's Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) Symposium this year.

Shelina is a junior majoring in Biology and Statistics. Her research was conducted during a summer program called Opportunities in Genomics Research: Undergraduate Scholars Program through the Genome Sequencing Center in St. Louis, MO. Under the advisement of her advisor, Genetics professor Dr. Wyatt Anderson, she presented on "Understanding the Cell Cycle: Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Phosphorylation of

Hcm1." She has participated in LSAMP for over two years, and won Best Oral Presentation at the Florida Georgia Alliance for Minority Participation Expo this year.

Aileen is a senior majoring in Statistics, Mathematics, and German. The title of her CURO presentation at this year's conference was "Human Random Capacities through Repeated Numeric Sampling." Slated to graduate in May, she has been accepted to Harvard, Texas A&M, and the University of Wisconsin for graduate work in statistics. She also participated in the inaugural run of the Capstone Course, working with a partner to analyze data gathered from the CDC. Congratulations to both of these accomplished students!



## GRADUATE PROGRAM

Lynne Seymour  
Graduate Coordinator

The graduate program seems to grow stronger every year! Currently we have about 75 students divided pretty evenly between Ph.D. and Master's students in Statistics, and Master's students who are earning a graduate degree in another discipline.

We are very proud that even in these tough economic times, our graduates are getting excellent jobs! Some of our Master's students are currently interviewing with the U.S. Bureau of the Census. One has a job as a research assistant in a neurobiology lab at Yale University, and may pursue her Ph.D. there. Our Ph.D. graduates this year are going to faculty positions with the Medical College of Wisconsin, Virginia Commonwealth University, Arizona State University, Drake University, and Rowan University. Those graduates who are going into industry are still interviewing at this time.

### FORMER GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE:

#### DR. CLYDE TUCKER

**Who is he?** Senior Survey Methodologist, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Background:** PhD, Political Science, University of Georgia  
M.S., Statistics, University of Georgia  
B.S., Armstrong Atlantic State University

Dr. Tucker was originally drawn to Statistics because of his professional interests in quantitative political science. His thesis, under the direction of Professor Emeritus Kermit Hutcheson, studied interviewer effects on telephone survey responses. Dr. Tucker began his career as the Assistant Manager of CBS News Polls, where he worked on the design and analysis of exit polls. Since 1984, he has served as a statistical consultant on national election decision desks for television networks, and he has managed the decision teams for Voter News Service from 1994-2002. In 2004, 2006, and 2008, he headed the decision desk for CNN.

Currently, he is a member of the committee overseeing the methodology of the Current Population Survey used to measure the unemployment rate, and of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. He is also currently a candidate for President of the American Statistical Association (ASA). He is past president of the Washington Statistical Society, and past chair of the Government Statistics Section of the ASA.

#### Honors and Awards:

- Fellow of the ASA
- ASA Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics

- American Association for Public Opinion Research Innovator Award
- 2007 Emmy Award for 2006 Election Night coverage by CNN
- 2008 Peabody Award for 2008 Presidential Primary coverage by CNN

**Favorite Statistics Class:** One of the first SAS classes ever offered, in the mid-70's, taught him the power of using computing as a tool for better statistical analyses.

#### Hobbies and Interests:

- Reading non-fiction
- Music -- he was in Athens just before the B-52's went national!
- Yankees Baseball

**Advice to Current Students:** If you're going into industry, emphasize methods and consulting in your coursework.

**Statisticians for hire:** The Bureau of Labor Statistics hires US Citizens, and will be recruiting at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, DC, in August.

### PHD STUDENT PROFILE - QIN WANG



Qin Wang, a native of China, received his bachelor's and master's degree in Management Science from the University of Science and Technology of China. After three years in the workplace, Qin began his studies in Statistics at the University of Georgia in 2004, and is expected to graduate with his doctoral degree in May of 2008. Recently, he accepted a position as a tenure-track

Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, and will begin work there in August 2009. Qin was also the recipient of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) "Laha Travel Award." He will use the award to attend the upcoming Joint Statistical Meetings in August, which will be held in Washington, DC. His wife, Dr. Jien Chen, currently works as the Associate Director of the Statistical Consulting Center, and they will be celebrating the upcoming birthday of their son Eric, who will be one year old in May. Congratulations Qin! We wish you and yours the best in your future endeavors!

## WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY!

### Jien Chen, Ph.D., Associate Director, Statistical Consulting Center

Jien Chen joined the faculty in July 2008 as the Associate Director of the Statistical Consulting Center (SCC). Not being new to the department, Jien had enrolled in the PhD program in 2003, subsequently receiving her Masters degree in 2005, and her doctoral degree in 2008. As a student, she gained valuable experience in statistical consulting from the Statistical Consulting STAT 8000 class, as well as from hands-on experience working as a graduate statistical consultant in the SCC. Dr. Chen is interested in solving real-world statistics problems, and has been working closely with Dr. Jaxk Reeves, the SCC Director, and the three graduate assistants whom they supervise in handling the many statistical projects which have come to the SCC since it re-opened in July 2008.

### Kim (Robinson) Gilbert, Ph.D., Lecturer

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Kim Gilbert to our department as a Lecturer. Kim received her bachelor and graduate degrees in Statistics here at UGA, and received her Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Georgia State University in 1998. Kim spent her time teaching for 15 years at two different colleges in the Atlanta metro area before joining us at UGA. Her career focus is on Statistical Education, and she has been involved with advanced placement (AP) classes since receiving her doctorate degree. She currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council on Teacher Enhancement for the American Statistical Association (ASA) and is also a member-at-large on the Executive Committee of the Section on Statistical Education. Kim states that it's really wonderful working with great colleagues that she has known for years. On a personal note, Kim and her husband recently purchased a new home in the Athens area, and she plans to spend many of her off-hours improving the yard area. For Dr. Gilbert, living in the Athens area and being on the UGA campus again is like a dream come true.

## STAFF PROFILE

### Mr. Jimmy Cretny, IT Manager

Jimmy arrived in the department in March of 2005 as the IT Systems Administrator Associate, and recently, since the transfer of the previous IT Manager, Jimmy has taken over this position. We congratulate Jimmy on his new promotion. Since the Systems Associate position that Jimmy vacated was no longer funded due to recent budget cuts, Jimmy has stepped into a huge role addressing a comprehensive array of IT related duties. Among his many duties are total departmental support for desktops, five computer labs, and a very large equipment inventory. To give assistance to Jimmy, Germaine Cahoon, who arrived in the department in August 2008, has stepped in to provide some much needed help. Jimmy has performed very well in acclimating himself into a very demanding and key position for the department. Jimmy is also recently married – talk about stress! – and enjoys such things as hiking, camping, traveling, photography, and gardening. Jimmy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

### Jeongyoun Ahn, Assistant Professor

Interests: High dimension low sample size problems, Statistical learning

### Ishwar Basawa, Professor

Interests: Inference in stochastic processes, time series, asymptotics, inference for spatial point processes, random fields

### Lynne Billard, Professor

Interests: Epidemic processes, AIDS, sequential analysis, time series, symbolic and complex data

### Jien Chen, Academic Professional

Interests: Statistical consulting, empirical likelihood, longitudinal data

### Gauri Datta, Professor

Interests: Statistical inference, linear models, survey sampling, Bayesian inference, generalized linear models

### Christine A. Franklin, Senior Lecturer and Undergraduate Coordinator

Interests: Statistics education (Pre-K-16)

### Kim Gilbert, Temporary Lecturer

Interests: Statistics education, statistical computing

### Daniel Hall

#### Associate Professor and Associate Head

Interests: Generalized Linear and Nonlinear Regression Models, Analysis of Clustered Data, Mixture Models, Statistical Application in the Biological Sciences

### Nicole Lazar, Professor

Interests: Likelihood theory, applications in social and behavioral science, model selection & interpretation, the history of statistics, the role of statistics in society, Analysis of functional MRI and neuroimaging data

### Yehua Li, Assistant Professor

Interests: Nonparametric and semiparametric methods; spatial statistics; measurement error models

# OUR PEOPLE

## DR. LEONARD SHENTON TURNS 100!

Congratulations to Dr. Leonard Shenton, Professor Emeritus, for reaching his 100th birthday! He and his friends celebrated his 100th birthday this past February, and he continues to live an active and rewarding life. He has published 18 papers since 2002, including one publication in 2009.

### **Abhyuday Mandal, Assistant Professor**

Interests: Design of experiments, computer experiments, optimization and genetic algorithms, engineering statistics, nanotechnology, fMRI data analysis

### **William P. McCormick, Professor**

Interests: Extreme value theory, Gaussian processes, time series, resampling

### **Jack Morse, Temporary Instructor**

Interests: Stastical education, statistical computing

### **Cheolwoo Park, Assistant Professor**

Interests: Multiscale analysis, nonparametric function estimation, statistical learning

### **Chandler Pike, Senior Academic Professional**

Interests: Statistical education, statistical graphics, statistical computing

### **Jaxk Reeves, Associate Professor**

Interests: Statistical consulting, statistical phylogenetics, statistical climatology

### **Paul Schliekelman, Associate Professor**

Interests: Statistical genomics and population genetics

### **Lynne Seymour, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator**

Interests: Periodic time series, random field models, pseudo-likelihood estimation

### **T.N. Sriram, Professor**

Interests: Sequential estimation, branching processes, bootstrap, adaptive designs, linear and nonlinear time series

### **John Stufken, Professor and Head**

Design of Experiments, Linear Models, Survey Sampling

### **Lily Wang, Assistant Professor**

Non- and semi-parametrics, nonlinear time series, high dimension computing and financial economics

### **XiangRong Yin, Associate Professor**

Regression graphics and multivariate analysis

## FORMER STUDENT PROFILE:

### **Mr. Christopher Styga, Peachtree City, Georgia**

Looking back on his academic path, Christopher Styga believes he got it right. He knew he loved math and numbers. That was not the problem. But what kind of Math? After taking a few courses in mathematics, he decided it was best to look toward Statistics as a major. After changing his major, and taking courses in Statistics, Christopher knew where he belonged. Christopher enjoyed and easily grasped the concepts of data collection, performing various tests, and drawing conclusions from the data. It also matched very well with his goal of becoming involved with Actuarial Science.

Since graduating from the University of Georgia in 2008 with his Bachelor of Science in Statistics, Christopher moved on to accepting a position as an Actuarial Assistant in the Pricing Department of an employee benefits company. Christopher moved into his current position after an internship with the company during his schooling in the summer of 2008 (he received course credit for the internship). His comprehensive duty is to prepare and analyze data for use in pricing models, as well as support for underwriting services, product development and re-pricing initiatives, and prepare and submit reports to be utilized by various company departments. Christopher comments that his hardest courses – Mathematical Statistics I & II – were also the most beneficial to him in terms of practical job tasks and passing the actuarial exams.

His advice for current students? Christopher comments that he would advise students to mix in some computer programming courses with their statistics courses. He states that this allows him to perform many of his routine job tasks more efficiently and in a timely manner and that "...the more experience you have with different computer languages, the easier it will be to grasp another." Learning Microsoft EXCEL is also very handy. With regard to actuarial careers, he also advises that students should complete their VEE requirements through course credit and to pass the exam while still in school.

Says Christopher, "I feel extremely fortunate to have graduated with a strong degree from an outstanding university and to have a promising career. I truly appreciate all the help I received along the way from professors, classmates, and my family."

## THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS ON FACEBOOK

It's official - we now are linked into one of the most popular social networking sites! Forty members strong and still growing, friends and alumni of the department are encouraged to join and contribute: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=39197917632> (or follow the link from <http://www.stat.uga.edu>). This is a great new way to reconnect with former colleagues and classmates, as well as provide your direct feedback and opinions on issues affecting the Department of Statistics at UGA.



# INS & OUTS

## STATISTICAL CONSULTING CENTER

The Statistical Consulting Center (SCC) officially began in 1989 as a small word-of-mouth operation within the Statistics Department, operated by a couple of graduate students with minimal faculty supervision. Over the years, the operation became more formal, with sometimes as many as 3 faculty and 6 graduate students working on various projects for clients throughout the campus, as well as a few off-campus clients. For various reasons, the SCC temporarily suspended operations from Aug. 2006 to June 2008.

In July 2008, with support from the Office of the Vice-President for Research and several colleges which are heavy users of our services, the SCC was re-opened under a different structure. There is now a faculty Director (Dr. Jaxk Reeves), a full-time Associate Director (Dr. Jien Chen), and three 4/9-time graduate assistants working year-round. We anticipate handling about 130 total projects this year: 105 on-campus, 15 as part of STAT 8000 (Supervised Statistical Consulting), and 10 from external-to-UGA clients. The STAT 8000 projects are handled for free as training for our graduate students. About one-half of all other projects are free of charge as part of the 'one free consultation per year' which we offer to any UGA client, while the other half are charged at rates needed to subsidize our operation. The long-range goal is for the SCC to raise enough revenue to fund half of its expenses (with the other half arising from a consortium of supporting colleges within the University), and this seems possible if we expand our external client base somewhat. Within two years, we expect the SCC to handle about 200 cases per year (140 on-campus, 25 STAT 8000, 35 external) and to support 4-6 graduate students as consultants.

## FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARDS

We have been privileged to be the home of many award winning individuals over the last year.

Dr. Lynne Billard won the 2008 Elizabeth L. Scott Award from the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies. This award, given every other year to only one winner, recognizes exemplary efforts to further the careers of women in academia. The citation reads:

"For encouraging women Statisticians as they embarked on their careers and mentoring women as they advanced; For excellent leadership to the profession, serving as a role model to the next generation of women and men in Statistics; And for conducting and publishing studies to understand and end gender-based inequities in Statistics."

Our 2008 Student Award winners: Jung Ae Lee for Best Beginning Applied Student, YiJie (Jerry) Xue for Best Beginning Theoretical Student, and Ming-Hung (Jason) Kao for Best Senior Student.

Ming-Hung (Jason) Kao Ming-Hung (Jason) Kao was awarded a James L. Carmon Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a graduate student whose research reflects state-of-the-art utilization of computer and/or networking technology in the sciences or creative arts.

Congratulations to Andy Bartlett, Nathan Lekahal, and Chris O'Neal for receiving this year's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the University. This

## GUEST SPEAKERS: FALL 2008

Stefano Barone, Università di Palermo  
Xiaoming Huo, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Wenbin Lu, North Carolina State University  
Karen N. Conneely, Emory University  
Andrew T. Sornborger, University of Georgia  
Ash Abebe, Auburn University  
Jiawei Liu, Georgia State University  
David Scott, Rice University  
Shuangge (Steven) Ma, Yale University  
Yijian (Eugene) Huang, Emory University  
Brent A. Johnson, Emory University  
Yajun Mei, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Yazhen Wang, National Science Foundation and University of Connecticut  
Jun M. Liu, Georgia Southern University

## GUEST SPEAKERS: SPRING 2009

Peihua Qiu, University of Minnesota  
Ming Yuan, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Francisco Vera, Clemson University  
David Dunson, Duke University  
Ying Hung, Rutgers University  
Dibyendu Baksi, SpecLogic, LLC  
Parag Chordia, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Alex Shapiro, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Xianzheng Huang, University of South Carolina  
Suojin Wang, Texas A&M  
John Morgan, Virginia Tech  
Jianqing Fan, Princeton University (UGA traveling to Clemson University)  
Nancy Reid, Toronto University (Bradley Lecture)  
Jianwen Cai, University of North Carolina

The Department of Statistics runs a weekly seminar series during the academic year. Most of the speakers are visitors from other institutions. Local faculty, with support from the staff, are in charge of hosting the visitors and coordinating their visits. This past year these responsibilities were in the hands of Dr. Lily Wang for fall semester and Dr. Abhyuday Mandal for spring semester. Both are Assistant Professors in our department, and did a great job with the speakers as well as coordinating these events.

award means that their teaching ranks in the top 10% of all TAs at the University!

Graduate student Qin Wang has been selected to receive an Institute of Mathematical Statistics Laha Travel Award to attend the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings/IMS Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to all of our winners!

## 2009 SPRING BRADLEY EVENT

This year's spring 17th Annual Bradley Lecture & events were held on April 17 & 18th. This event is held in honor of Dr. Ralph Bradley, who made many important contributions to the field of Statistics, and served as president of ASA in 1981. The event is sponsored by the department and hosted by The Statistics Club, with doctoral graduate student Ashley Askew currently serving as its president and primary host for the event. Normally, graduate students take part in selecting an eminent scholar of their choice, and have the opportunity to interact with the speaker at the lecture, dinner, and picnic events. We also invite other institutions to the event.

Our distinguished speaker this year was Dr. Nancy Reid, University of Toronto. Dr. Reid is the University Professor of Statistics and holds the Canada Research Chair in Statistical Theory and Applications at the University of Toronto. She is the first female in the world and also the first Canadian resident to receive the prestigious COPSS award. Professor Reid gave her main lecture on the "Composite Likelihood Inference in Complex Models" and her after-dinner talk on "Statistics in the News." On Saturday a picnic was held at the local Memorial Park, with the speaker, faculty, and students socializing in a beautiful setting. It was also interesting to observe the students displaying their BBQ grilling skills!

## STUDENT TRAVEL TO CONFERENCES

Travel to conferences is an integral and essential part of the training of graduate students, especially at the PhD level. While funds are limited, the department and university regularly provide partial support for such travel. Many of the students present their research at these conferences in the form of a paper or poster, and students who do receive priority for partial reimbursement of their expenses. Conferences that our students attended in 2008 include the Joint Statistical Meetings (9 students), ENAR (5 students), the Spring Research Conference (4 students), as well as several other meetings.

## ASYMPTOTIC STATISTICS SYMPOSIUM

There will be a two-day symposium on "New Directions in Asymptotic Statistics", May 15-16, 2009, at the Georgia Center, UGA, organized by Professors Ishwar Basawa and T. N. Sriram.

The objective is to provide a forum for leading senior researchers of international repute, promising new researchers, and graduate students, who are actively pursuing research in asymptotic theory and methods to present their work. The goal is to create a synergy between the theoreticians and the practitioners by providing opportunities for communication and personal interaction among established and beginning researchers, thereby expanding or creating research networks.

There will be 9 keynote talks, 24 invited talks and 27 talks by new researchers. It is estimated that there will be about 90 participants at the symposium. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences. For more details, please visit on [http://aaron.stat.uga.edu/news\\_events/symposium09/index.html](http://aaron.stat.uga.edu/news_events/symposium09/index.html).

## BRAIN IMAGING IN THE STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

The Statistics Department's involvement with the local brain imaging community continues to expand. We now run two weekly meetings, with graduate student and faculty participants from around campus (Statistics, Psychology, Math, Physics). Several of our Statistics graduate students have completed or are about to complete their degrees now (M.S. or Ph.D.) and are getting very good jobs even in these tough economic times.

In October, during Fall Break, we hosted the first "Network of Greater Georgia Institutes for Neuroimaging Statistics" (or "NOG-GINS") Workshop. The workshop brought together students from UGA, Georgia Tech and Emory, many of whom presented their research, and faculty from across UGA's campus. We are hoping to make this a yearly event and will seek funding from NSF to help us in this effort.

# THANK YOU!

## YOUR GIFT TO STATISTICS COUNTS!

Besides greatly enhancing students' educational experience, your support helps UGA's Department of Statistics remain one of the nation's great academic centers for statistics.

For more information, or to make a safe and secure online gift to the Department of Statistics, please visit our website at [www.stat.uga.edu/donations.html](http://www.stat.uga.edu/donations.html). Checks should be made payable to the Arch Foundation and mailed to The University of Georgia, Gift Accounting, 394 S. Milledge Ave, Athens, GA 30602. Be sure to include AFASSTA209 on the 'for' line of your check.

## WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS FROM AND EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Mr. & Mrs. Jack O. Morse  
Dr. Harji I. Patel  
Dr. Mary Mitchell Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell J. Philpot  
Dr. Norris C. Tucker, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Grady R. Murdock  
Dr. Georgia K. Gilbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Brown, Sr.  
Dr. Mae M. Carpenter  
Ms. Gabriele Tonsil  
Dr. Yuqing Dai

Dr. Ellen O. McSorley and Mr. Paul A. McSorley  
Mr. Darryl W. Revenew  
Mr. Philip A. Evans  
IBM Corporation  
Medtronic, Inc.  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Mr. Charles C. Phelps, III  
Dr. Zhengang Zhang and Dr. Yan Jiang  
Dr. Stephen W. Looney and Ms. Teresa McVeigh  
Mr. Jian Huang and Dr. Xiaoli Chen  
Dr. Thomas P. Ryan



# StatisticsNews

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